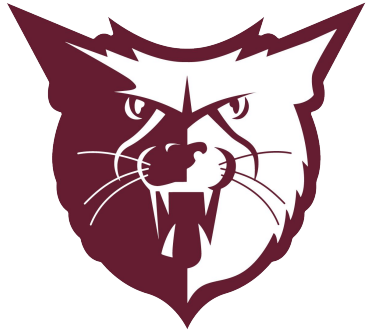




SHERMAN

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

District-Level Planning Committee #4

**Amy Pesina, Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum and Instruction**

May 14, 2026

Housekeeping

Minutes from May 14, 2026

Notetaker: Victoria Mathews



DOI Renewal Context

Sherman ISD's current District of Innovation Plan expires at the end of the 2025–2026 school year and must be renewed to maintain local flexibility.

This renewal includes:

- Required updates due to legislative changes
- Removal of outdated exemptions
- Alignment to current district practices

The goal is to ensure the plan remains both **compliant and operationally relevant**.



Renewal Process

DATES	WHAT	OBJECTIVE
April 27	Initial meeting Teaching & Learning	Review the current District of Innovation plan and update exemptions and language.
May 1	Public Posting	Post proposed District of Innovation renewal plan for public review for a minimum of 30 days.
May 14	District-Level Committee Meeting	Review and consider approval of the final proposed District of Innovation renewal plan.
June 15	Board of Trustees Meeting	Board of Trustees considers approval of the District of Innovation renewal plan with amendments.
After Approval	TEA Notification	Submit required notifications and documentation to the Texas Education Agency.



Summary of current DOI plan

Most of Sherman ISD's current District of Innovation plan will remain unchanged.

The district will continue to maintain flexibility in areas that directly support campus operations and student needs, including:

- Class size and student-teacher ratios
- School start date and calendar development
- Length of the instructional day
- Transfer student procedures

These areas continue to provide campuses with the ability to respond to local needs while maintaining overall system consistency.



Summary of proposed changes

Maintained	Revised
Class size Start date Length of day Transfer authority	Teacher certification requirements
Removed	Added
90% attendance Return to state attendance requirements	Grievance procedures (Chapter 26A) Continued use of FNG (LOCAL) and DGBA (LOCAL)



Teacher certification update

Recent legislative changes significantly limit the use of District of Innovation exemptions related to teacher certification.

What is changing:

- 2026–2027: Exemptions no longer apply to K–5 Reading and Math teachers
- 2027–2028: Exemptions no longer apply to all foundation curriculum courses

District response:

Sherman ISD will comply with these requirements while continuing to maintain flexibility in allowable areas such as Career and Technical Education and dual credit instruction.



Grievance procedures update

Grievance procedures update

Senate Bill 12 and House Bill 12 introduced Chapter 26A, requiring districts to implement additional grievance procedures related to parental rights.

New requirements include:

- Board-level review of grievances
- Formal notice and response processes for employees

District action:

- District-Level Committee reviewed the requirements and voted to opt out
- Board of Trustees approved the DOI amendment in August 2025

Result:

Sherman ISD will continue to operate under existing local policies:

- FNG (LOCAL) for student and parent complaints
- DGBA (LOCAL) for employee complaints

Attendance updates

Attendance (change):

The DOI renewal removes the exemption from the 90% attendance rule.
Sherman ISD will return to full compliance with state attendance requirements.



Why this matters?

The 2026–2031 DOI Renewal Plan:

- Maintains flexibility in areas that directly impact campuses and students
- Aligns with updated state law
- Removes outdated exemptions
- Adds provisions to address new legislative requirements

This ensures the plan remains both compliant and responsive to district needs.



Committee Feedback

At your table, please provide feedback on:

Clarity of language

- Are there any areas that may require clarification or refinement?

Implementation considerations

- Are there any potential challenges for campuses or staff?

Recommended adjustments

- Are there any suggested edits to improve clarity or consistency?

Guidelines:

- Focus on wording and implementation, not preference
- Avoid revisiting decisions already made
- Limit responses to **3–5 total items per table**
- Be prepared to share **one key point**



Next Steps

Following today's discussion:

- Final adjustments will be made as needed
- The plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees on June 15
- Upon approval, the plan will be submitted to TEA





Questions?